

### **REMARKS**

The non-final Office Action was issued on pending claims 1-37. Claims 1-37 stand rejected. In this Response, claims 1, 3, 11, 12, 19, 22, 23, 27-30, 34 and 37 have been amended, claims 2, 4-7, 10, 13, 15-17, 24, 31 and 32 have been cancelled without prejudice, and claims 38 and 39 have been added. Thus, claims 1, 3, 8, 9, 11, 12, 14, 18-23, 25-30 and 33-39 are pending in the application.

Applicants invite the Examiner to call Applicants' Representative to discuss any issues with this application.

### **Claim Rejections – 35 USC §103**

At page 2 of the Office Action, claims 21 and 36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Nakashima* (US 5,729,251) in view of *Tsuji et al.* (US 6,522,347). Applicants respectfully disagree.

The present application claims foreign priority based on Japanese Application No. P11-327670, filed November 18, 1999, as claimed in the signed declaration. A certified copy of JP '670 was submitted to the Patent Office with the filing of this application. Enclosed is an English language translation of the certified copy of the priority document with a statement that the translation of the certified copy of the priority document is accurate. Accordingly, Applicants are entitled to rely on the November 18, 1999 foreign priority filing date in Japan under 37 CFR § 1.55.

*Tsuji et al.* was filed on January 18, 2000. Applicants' Japanese priority date of November 18, 1999 pre-dates the § 103(e) effective prior art date of January 18, 2000 for *Tsuji et al.* Accordingly, *Tsuji et al.* is not prior art to the present application.

Thus, Applicants submit that the § 103 rejections should be withdrawn.

Claims 38 and 39 have been added. Claim 38 corresponds to claim 21 rewritten in independent form and claim 39 corresponds to claim 36 rewritten in independent form. Applicants submit claims 21, 36, 38 and 39 are allowable.

### **Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102**

At pages 3-8 of the Office Action, claims 1-20, 22-35 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by *Nakashima*. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Independent claim 1 pertains to a portable information processing terminal adapted to be connected to one or more than one targets by way of a network. The portable information processing terminal has an imaging means for imaging visible identification information possessed by the targets. The terminal also has an identification means for identifying the targets on the basis of the identification information imaged by the imaging means. Claim 1 also calls for a connection means for establishing connection between itself and the targets identified by the identification means. Claim 1 has been amended to call for an image confirmation means for confirming the images of the targets including said identification information, and said confirmation means displays status of connection to the one or more than one targets.

Claim 3 pertains to an information input/output system. Claim 3 has been amended to define the user terminal as having a display screen, and the images and status of connection to the one or more than one targets taken by the imaging means is displayed on the display screen.

Claim 23 claims the invention as an information input/output method. The method of claim 23 pertains to processing user inputs/outputs in an information space comprising a user terminal to be used by a user and having a display screen, one or more than one targets connected to the user terminal in a format adapted to transfer of information and including visible identification information, an identification means for identifying the targets on the basis of the identification information imaged by the imaging means, and a connection means for establishing connection between the user terminal and the targets identified by the identification

means. Claim 23 has been amended to include the step of displaying the images and status of connection to the one or more than one targets taken by the imaging means on the display screen.

The features of Applicants' invention include a terminal having a display screen that displays the status of connection to the one or more than one targets. Applicants' invention provides advantages. For example, Applicants' invention allows for providing a comfortable user interface environment where users can control and operate various devices arranged in an information space in an easy and intuitive way on the user's computer display.

Nakashima does not disclose or suggest such features. The Office Action refers to Nakashima at column 44, lines 29-31 to support an assertion that Nakashima has a user terminal which includes a display screen and the images taken by an imaging means are displayed on the display screen. However, Nakashima at column 44, lines 20-36 merely describes a display method of a display device and not Applicants' claimed user terminal having a display screen which displays the status of the connection. At column 44, lines 20-36, Nakashima describes a matrix-driven display section having X lines and Y lines which cross each other at right angles to define a matrix coordinate. See Fig. 74a. As shown in Fig. 74b, the Y coordinate is activated parallel, and the other coordinate, that is the X lines, are sequentially scanned around. One screen is displayed as a result of the continuation of this operation. On the assumption that the time required to apply a voltage to one coordinate is constant, the time necessary to change one screen is dependent on a total number of X lines. Applicants submit that Nakashima simply does not disclose or suggest Applicants' claimed invention, for example, the user terminal having a display screen that displays images and status of the connection to the one or more than one targets taken by the imaging means.

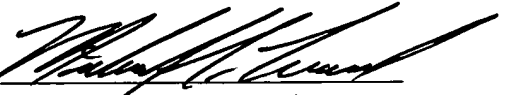
Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the § 102 rejections should be withdrawn.

**CONCLUSION**

For the foregoing reasons, Applicants submit that the patent application is in condition for allowance and request a Notice of Allowance be issued.

Respectfully submitted,

BELL, BOYD & LLOYD LLC

BY 

Michael S. Leonard

Reg. No. 37,557

P.O. Box 1135

Chicago, Illinois 60690-1135

Phone: (312) 807-4270

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